

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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TAGS: SNAR/HK

SUBJECT:U.S. CUSTOMS NARCOTIC DETECTOR DOG TRAINER PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 206742; B) HONG KONG 10321

1. AS A GENERAL RULE THE DEPARTMENT TAKES THE POSITION THAT FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE THE INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE FOR ANY U.S. CCINC RELATED TRAINING PROGRAMS WHEN IT HAS ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO DO SO. HOWEVER, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES EXCEPTIONS ARE MADE. AS ALL OTHER COURSE COSTS INCLUDING RELATED DOMESTIC TRAVEL EXPENSES ARE BORNE BY USG, IT IS FELT THAT THEY SHOULD HANDLE THIS TRANSPORTATION COST AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR COOPERATION IN THE DRUG FIGHT.

2. THE COURSE DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL A) IS FOR DOG TRAINERS

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RATHER THAN FOR DOG HANDLERS. U.S. CUSTOMS DOES NOT PRO-

VIDE DOGS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE DOG TRAINER COURSE. THE TRAINING FOR DOG HANDLERS ORIGINALLY OFFERED IN MAY, 1976 INVOLVES 14 WEEKS OF INSTRUCTION DURING WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS AND SELECTED ANIMALS RECEIVE NARCOTICS DETECTION TRAINING AS A MAN/DOG TEAM. IN THIS TYPE OF TRAINING, THE DOG IS RETURNED TO THE PARTICIPANT COUNTRY.

3. SINCE THE 14 WEEK COURSE WAS ORIGINALLY OFFERED TO HONG KONG, IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE SIX MONTH QUARANTINE PERIOD FOR DOGS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG. AS TRAINED NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOGS REQUIRE WEEKLY RETRAINING TO KEEP THEIR PROFICIENCY UP, THE SUCCESS OF DEVELOPING MAN/DOG TEAMS IN THE U.S. WOULD BE MARGINAL.

4. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS BE SENT TO THE U.S. FOR THE OCTOBER COURSE. IF THEY MEET THE CRITERIA SET FORWARD IN REFTEL A, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO INITIATE NARCOTIC DOG TRAINING IN HONG KONG BASED UPON KNOWLEDGE GAINED IN THE THREE WEEK DOG TRAINERS COURSE. IF HONG KONG OFFICIALS AGREE, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING A U.S. CUSTOMS DOG EXPERT TO ASSIST THEM IN TURNING OUT THEIR FIRST CLASS OF NARCOTIC DETECTOR DOGS. THIS WOULD INVOLVE ABOUT 3 MONTHS IN COUNTRY. ROBINSON

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